

Application No. 10/512,051
Amendment dated February 20, 2007
Reply to Office Action of October 20, 2006

Docket No.: 5417-0105PUS1

REMARKS

Claims 11-14 and 16-18 are now present in this application.

Claim 11 has been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed in the present application on November 13, 2006. Notification of receipt of this IDS and consideration of the documents cited therein are respectfully requested.

Claims 11-13 and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Maeng, US Patent 6,563,331 in view of Sakai, US Patent 5,650,732. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the amended present invention, moving means simultaneously grip a plurality of strip formats arranged along the planar direction (not vertically) of the strip formats. On the contrary, in the Sakai patent, moving means [21] simultaneously and vertically grips a plurality of strip format [9]. It is understood based on the following three paragraph and Fig. 2 in the Sakai.

(i) "The transfer robot 21 has eight vertically movable shelves which are capable of supporting the eight test boards at one time." (column 3, lines 59-61)

(ii) "A group of four test boards 9 is removed from the storage unit 16 by the transfer robot 21 based on the signal from the tester 22...The transfer robot 21 is vertically movable so that it can concurrently remove a plurality of test boards 9 from the storage unit 16 at a desired position." (column 5, lines 18-23)

(iii) "The transfer robot 21 stops in front of the test chamber 19 so as to allow the horizontally-placed four doors 20 of each of the two rotary chambers 19a to automatically open, thereby simultaneously removing from each of the chamber portions the four test board 9 in horizontal positions. Those test boards already have been tested in the previous test. At this point, the transfer robot 21 accommodates both four untested boards 9 transferred from the storage unit 16 and four tested boards 9 removed from the test chamber 19 on the built-in shelves. The transfer robot 21 vertically slides the shelf to support each of the four untested boards 9 by means of the locating guides 32 of the four

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chamber portions with the doors 20 open. Thereafter, the doors 20 are automatically closed." (column 5, lines 49-62)

Since the Sakai has the above-mentioned construction, it is impossible that the strip format [9] are not pressed against the contact portions without rotating the strip formats, and the moving motion and the pressing motion are not continuously executed following the gripping motion. For this reason, if the Sakai teachings are applied to the device Maeng, the test boards 9 are horizontally rearranged or are reload on moving meaning [34,36,38,40] of the Maeng device after the moving means [21] vertically grip the strip formats [9].

On the other hand, in the present invention, moving means simultaneously grip a plurality of strip formats arranged along the planar direction of said strip formats, and the moving motion and the pressing motion are continuously executed following the gripping motion without rotating the strip formats, so that the time of setting IC devices on the contact portions in the present invention is shorter than that in the Maeng and the Sakai. The claimed electronic device testing apparatus of independent claim 11 as well as the dependent claims would not be found in the teachings of Maeng alone or as modified by the teaching of Sakai, assuming this modification would actually be made. Accordingly, the utilized prior art would neither suggest nor render obvious the electronic device testing apparatus of the present invention. As such, the 35 USC 103 rejection should now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the above amendment, the pending application should be in condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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